

The Brethren Evangelist,

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A FEW SUGGESTIONS.

We venture a few suggestions at this time to the National Conference, and also to our State Conferences. We believe that it is the desire of all our Conferences to have their proceedings published in pamphlet form. For the past few years these minutes have been published in the regular Church Annual, but this it seems to us, is not desirable, nor expedient. The Conferences should not expect the Publishing House to publish their minutes and run the risk of selling a sufficient number to cover the expense. This is not desirable nor necessary.

1. Let each Conference, including the National, annually appropriate the sum of \$5.00 towards the publication of its minutes. The minutes of all the Conferences, including the National Conference, could thus be published in one pamphlet, with complete index, and the whole be made a very valuable compendium for pastor and people. The President of each Conference, would, for the \$5.00 be entitled to 500 or 1000 copies of the book, which number would be sent to him for distribution in his district. Would not this be desirable? The work of the whole church could in this way be placed in every home, and there would be no occasion for ignorance as to the business of all the Conferences. It may be too late to accomplish this for the year 1895; yet if the moderators of the different Conferences will pledge themselves for \$5.00 each, we will publish the book, and send 500 copies to each one on payment of the \$5.00. What say you, brethren.

2. Again, should there not be a change in the time for holding some of our State Conferences? It is of great importance that the State Conferences work in harmony with the National Conference. The State Conferences should either all of them be held soon after, or not long before, the National Conference. In our opinion, the more desirable time would be after the National Conference. There may be some very important work which the National Conference expects to accomplish through the State Conferences,

and a meeting of these Conferences, soon after the National Conference, would therefore be very desirable. We believe that this plan would be quite advantageous, organize our forces more systematically, and enable us more readily, to carry out the wishes of the National Conference.

A REVIVAL IN RELIGION.

We are persuaded in our own mind that the near future will witness somewhat of a revival of primitive Christianity. The signs of the times point in that direction. There is more than a usual awakening among the young people of the church everywhere, and a revival among them, means a shaking up of the "dry bones." There is an immense activity among all the various organizations of the church. For some time there has been great unrest in the social world. The last three or four years have witnessed more and greater changes in the social world, than twenty-five years prior to this period. The people have been drifting from one place to another, having no settled convictions. There has been a decided change in the attitude of the world toward the church, and for a while it seemed as if the people would lose their respect for the church, and forsake it as an institution. A crowd in London hissed a speaker when he spoke of the church, but cheered him when he spoke of Jesus Christ. Is it possible that Jesus, the founder of the church, is no longer associated with it? But these times are gradually disappearing. Churches everywhere are awaking to their duty, buckling on the whole armor of God and going out after the lost. Christianity has been put to the severest test within the last five years. As in the days of Clement of Alexandria when a combination of heathen, Greek, and Jewish thought, was in terrible conflict, each striving for the victory, Christianity gained the day, so now amid the social unrest, when the very elements are disturbed, when the heart and soul of man have turned away from God and the church, vainly attempting to find peace, Christianity boldly asserts its claim as containing within itself the only regenerating, sanctifying and elevating influence in the world. It has met the would-be reformers on the battle-field—the men who have denounced the church and christianity, and in the great conflict it is again winning the day. People are again coming back to the Gospel of Christ, whose principles when properly applied, after all,

are the only remedy for the social ills of the age. The Gospel of the *living* Christ, with its grand and sublime principle, the universal brotherhood of man, the Fatherhood of God, is the one healing balm for the social unrest; and if ever the great problems of human society will be solved, and satisfactorily disposed of, it will be—it must be—on the eternal principles of the Gospel as the foundation.

People are beginning to realize this truth and we are justified in looking for a reaction, from the lethargy of the church, and the attitude of the world towards it. This will result in a revival of the life giving truths of the Gospel, and a general awakening all along the various lines of Christian activity. God welcome the day when Jesus, by his attractive power, shall draw the estranged world to him, and impart to them that life which insures an eternal immortality.

WHY READ THE CHURCH PAPER

There are many reasons why every member of the church should read his own church paper, a few of which are the following:

1. For your own improvement, intellectually and spiritually. The paper will be a great help to you along the line of self improvement. Many of the articles are prepared by those who have ability to impart instruction and their writings are educational. Aside from the spiritual truths and knowledge gained by reading the paper, you will find it valuable as a means of intellectual improvement. Then too, the doctrinal subjects discussed keep you informed as to the fundamental faith and teachings of your church. This alone is a sufficient reason why each member of the church should be a reader of the EVANGELIST.

2. The church paper is the only means you have of keeping informed as to the work of the church. But for your church paper you could have no certain knowledge of the doings of your church. And this is of vital importance. Is it not the duty of every member of the church to know the *business* of the church? He ought to know what is going on at other places in the brotherhood, and this he can know only by reading the church paper. You want to know what the young people are doing, and the S. S. C. E., evangelists and missionaries, the work of our Conferences is to be reported, and a vast amount of other church news, to be ignorant of which, would be to sit in dark.